

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD  
AND  
DESIGNATED LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL  
SENIOR CENTER/YOUTH SERVICES BUILDING  
Minutes  
March 11, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Lori Blackburn, AnnMarie Cox, Jennifer Kertanis, Laura Matheos, Mark McDermott, Julianna Pestretto, Michele Psutka, Daphne Shinder, Courtney Sims, Abby Shtekler, Captain Tyler, Kat Volikas

**GUEST:** Sonya Srinath

Michelle Psutka confirmed a quorum and began the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES**

**ON A MOTION BY** Jennifer Kertanis, seconded by Abby Shtekler, the Board voted (4-0-0) to accept the minutes of February 11, 2015 as written.

**YOUTH COUNSELOR REPORT:**

- Ms. Cox and two other individuals from the Bureau attended a meeting at the STEPS program in Southington. The program's responsibility is to educate the community regarding activities that are building assets. All of the community groups use common language. They also have an e-newsletter which supports activities in the community that highlight asset building and they have been working with the schools for the past seven years. There are two upcoming trainings on May 21<sup>st</sup>. One is from 8 to 11 a.m. and the second is from 12 to 3 p.m. They invited Ms. Cox and anyone else on the Bureau to attend. Ms. Cox hopes to get a school administrator to attend also.
- The girls version of GO is very successful. It is for sixth and seventh graders and will be extended to eighth graders next year.
- The counselors' caseloads are close to capacity and there may soon be a waiting list.

**YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL:**

- YAC is meeting tonight. They will set a date for the next sixth grade dance.
- The group is working on a survival guide for college. Some of the topics that will be covered are alcohol abuse, date rape, nutrition, etc.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Ms. Cox distributed a draft of the flyer for the zombie run. Please get any changes and/or corrections to her as soon as possible. Mark McDermott stated he spoke to the football coach who is interested in having the team participate. He will send the coaches contact information to Ms. Cox.
- Kat Volikas inquired if “Play be the Rules” would be held again. This presentation is geared toward middle school and the laws and rights that pertain to that age group. Ms. Cox will look into this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Julianna Pestretto stated she attended a Girl Scout conference in Rhode Island. The keynote speaker was from Heifer International and she spoke about women’s rights, particularly in Nepal. She gave Julianna information on their “Read to Feed” program which is for kids from kindergarten through middle school, which promotes reading and community awareness. Julianna would like to start the program in Granby and extend it through high school. Kat Volikas invited her to speak at the school Climate Committee.
- Cuts in the Governor’s proposed budget will create some issues for Youth Services. It may be time to look at the YSB’s business model, i.e. instituting fee for service for counseling, etc.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY** Lori Blackburn, seconded by Mark McDermott, the bureau voted (11-0-0) to adjourn at 4:40 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane  
Recording Secretary